the issues involved has recently submitted its report. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry. The target for this portion will be fixed once the decision on the alignment is finalised.

Facilities in AC-3 tier trains

851. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to put curtains in 3 tier AC;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) by when this proposal would be implemented in each train; and

(d) the other facilities being considered to put in AC-3 tier trains like Rajdhani?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All new AC-3 Tier coaches are being provided with curtains in aisles, besides curtains on the windows which were already provided. Existing AC-3Tier coaches on the Zonal Railways shall also be provided with curtains in the aisles in a phased manner.

(d) From the considerations of coach design and passenger amenities, AC-3 Tier coaches are similar whether used in Rajdhani services or other trains.

Gauge conversion

852. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have prescribed some norms for approving the gauge conversion work after completion of its survey works;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of railway lines for which proposals have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and South Central Railway; and

(d) the time-frame fixed for completing the works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The norms for taking up gauge conversion projects are as under:

i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes.

ii) To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.

iii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centres and locations having potential for growth;

iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic consideration;

v) To minimize transhipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transhipment points.

Gauge conversion works are also taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward areas.

(c) and (d) There is only one Metre Gauge line on South Central Railway for which Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for expeditious completion. On this Dharmavaram-Pakala line, conversion of Pakala-Madanapalli has already been completed and awaiting certification by Commissioner of Railway Safety. The portion from Madanapalli Dharmavaram is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

Road overbridges in Himachal Pradesh

853. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some proposals of rail cum road overbridges (ROBs) in Himachal Pradesh are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the current status of the proposals;

(c) whether the State Government has completed all the preliminary formalities for getting sanctioned the said proposals;

(d) if not, the details of the negotiations Government has made with the State Government, so far; and

(e) the details of results of the said negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a), (b) (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Proposals for three ROBs on deposit terms were initiated by the State Govt. details of which are as under:

Name of work	Status
1. Road over bridge (ROB) at Fared, Km. 120/8-7 on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section	State Govt. has not conveyed acceptance of conceptual profile sketch and abstract Estimate which were sent to them on 1.5.2007. P&E (Plan & Estimate) charges have also not been deposited by them.
2. Road Over Bridge at Km. 116/8-9 near Tabha village on Sirhind-Unna section	Joint feasibility studies could not be taken up due to poor response from State Govt. for last 2 years.
3. ROB in lieu of LC No. 323 at Km. 143/1-2 on Pathankot-Jogindernagar section near Baijnath Mahakal.	P&E charges have not yet been deposited by State Govt. to enable Railways taking further action

(c) No, Sir.

Rail projects in Gujarat

854. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: